

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 /023 W
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P R 042135Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5110
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LA PAZ 3312

FOR: TODMAN AND DUFFEY CU/ARA - USIA FOR ILA FOR PACE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 96982

1. THERE IS ROOM FOR INCREASED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BOTH THROUGH STATE-POST FACILITIES AND OAS. GIVEN BELOW ARE EXPANDED PROGRAMS POST BELIEVES ARE REASONABLE AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD BOLIVIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG CREATIVE THINKERS.

2. RETURN OF MAJOR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM TO LATIN AMERICA WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION BY U.S. PRESENT POST RESOURCES PERMIT ONE OR TWO MINOR (AMERICAN) PERFORMING ARTISTS PER YEAR. GOOD CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM MIGHT SERVE TWO PURPOSES: (A) DEMONSTRATE BEST IN AMERICAN CULTURE - THE KIND NORMALLY SEEN ONLY BY WEALTHY BOLIVIANS WHO CAN AFFORD TRAVEL TO THE U.S., AND (B) DEMONSTRATE U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

3. OAS IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ITS EXCELLENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE TRAINING FOR SUCH CHILD
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PRODIGIES AS ANA MARIA VERA OF BOLIVIA. PERHAPS U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO OAS COULD BE INCREASED TO PROVIDE MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SIMILAR VERY YOUNG ARTISTS. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT MISS VERA CAN ACCEPT HER SCHOLARSHIP ONLY BECAUSE HER FATHER IS ASSIGNED TO THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OTHER CHILD PRODIGIES MIGHT INCLUDE GUARANTEED JOBS FOR THEIR PARENTS IN THE

COUNTRY OF STUDY. SUCH JOBS COULD BE WITH THE OAS, IN A DIPLOMATIC MISSION, OR WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THESE SCHOLARSHIPS NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ARTS. THEY COULD BE GIVEN OTHER FIELDS TO DEMONSTRATE U.S. INTEREST IN EXCELLENCE IN ALL FIELDS.

4. THE POST COULD MAKE EXCELLENT USE OF AN EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM TO REACH ARTISTS, WRITERS AND OTHER INTELLECTUALS. THE POST HAS NO FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. AN EMBASSY SELECTION COMMITTEE CHOOSES IV CANDIDATES. SINCE THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE EMBASSY, THE IV SELECTIONS REPRESENT A CROSS-SECTION OF INTERESTS. ON THE AVERAGE ABOUT ONE ARTIST, WRITER OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PER YEAR GOES ON THE IV PROGRAM TO THE U.S. FROM BOLIVIA. ONE WAY TO EXPAND THIS NUMBER MIGHT BE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF IV GRANTS AND TO SPECIFY THAT A MINIMUM NUMBER BE FOR PURELY CULTURAL PURPOSES. ADDITIONAL FUNDING MIGHT PERMIT FORMATION OF AN EXCHANGE COMMITTEE, SIMILAR TO FULBRIGHT COMMITTEES, OF BOLIVIAN AND AMERICANS TO SELECT THE INDIVIDUALS TO TRAVEL UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

5. INTELLECTUALS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS ARE FOND OF SAYING THE DEVELOPED WORLD KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE THIRD WORLD. GRANTS MIGHT BE MADE TO THE OAS OR TO AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING LATIN AMERICAN CREATIVE THINKERS, WRITERS AND PERFORMING ARTISTS BEFORE AMERICAN AUDIENCES. THE IV PROGRAM DOES TAKE SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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INTELLECTUALS TO THE U.S. BUT PROVIDES LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXHIBIT THEIR WARES. THE OAS DOES THIS TO SOME EXTENT BUT THE PROGRAM COULD BE EXPANDED.

6. POST WOULD LIKE TO SEE ESTABLISHED CONTINUING RELATIONS BETWEEN SEVERAL BOLIVIAN INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR COUNTER-PARTS. WE ARE NOW WORKING TO ESTABLISH SUCH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN LA PAZ, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG. TO ASSIST AND STIMULATE SUCH INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT, SPECIAL FUNDS MIGHT BE SET UP IN STATE OR THE OAS. THESE FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO UNIVERSITIES, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, AND OTHER CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS DESIRING TO ESTABLISH SUCH INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS. THE FUNDS WOULD BE USED TO EXCHANGE WRITERS, PROFESSORS, ARTISTS, RESEARCHERS, LIBRARIANS ON AN INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL. SINCE INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED OVERNIGHT, SOME PROJECTS MIGHT REQUIRE A COMMITMENT FROM STATE

OR THE OAS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. AN ARBITRARY TIME
LIMIT - SAY FIVE YEARS - MIGHT BE SET.
OTHER INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS POST WOULD LIKE TO SEE
INCLUDE LA PAZ CITY LIBRARY WITH SALT LAKE CITY
LIBRARY; COCHABAMBA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
WITH ITS COUNTERPART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA;
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (LA PAZ) SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM WITH
A SISTER INSTITUTION IN U.S.; BOLIVIAN CONSERVATORY,
BOLIVIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES WITH AN APPROPRIATE AMERICAN
ORGANIZATION.

7. AN OLD LATIN AMERICAN SAW SAYS THAT WHEN UNCLE SAM
SNEEZES, LATIN NATIONS CATCH COLD. LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
COULD AVOID, OR LESSEN THE EFFECT OF AMERICAN ACTIONS
THAT AFFECT THEM ADVERSELY, IF THEY BETTER UNDERSTOOD
THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST
TO UNDERSTAND US WELL, AND IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO BE
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UNDERSTOOD. THE POST SUGGESTS ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR
OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT EITHER THE LA PAZ NATIONAL OR CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY. THE HOLDER OF THE CHAIR MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO
LECTURE ALSO AT THE ESCUELA DE ALTOS ESTUDIOS MILITARES
(NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE) AND AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 LA PAZ 3312

FOR: TODMAN AND DUFFEY CU/ARA - USIA FOR ILA FOR PACE

IN THE FIRST YEARS, THE CHAIR COULD BE HELD BY AN AMERICAN

WHILE A BOLIVIAN PREPARES HIMSELF IN AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. AFTER FIVE YEARS THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER THE COSTS. THE POST CANNOT EVEN CONSIDER SUCH A PROJECT WITH ITS PRESENT VERY LIMITED FUNDS. BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITIES THEMSELVES WOULD NOT CONSIDER SUCH A PROJECT WITHIN THEIR PRESENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES, BUT WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT WOULD DEMONSTRATE ITS OWN WORTH OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

8. THE POST BELIEVES IT COULD HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL WORK LOAD, BASED ON THE ABOVE, WITHIN ITS PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN. HOWEVER, IF WASHINGTON WISHED TO GREATLY IMPROVE AND INCREASE PRIVATE EXCHANGES AN ASSISTANT CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER WOULD NEED TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE POST. AT PRESENT THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF PRIVATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE U.S. AMONG THESE ARE PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS, AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE, SISTER CITIES, ROTARY CLUBS AND YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING. SOME OF THESE ARE DYNAMIC; SOME LIMP ALONG.

9. CU COUNTRY PLAN, TO BE SUMMITTED IN NEXT TWO WEEKS, WILL ALSO CARRY SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPANDED EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

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